

At page 1, line 24, after "Serial No." insert --08/641,386--

At page 2, line 3, after "Serial No." insert --08/640,219--

At page 2, line 8, after "Serial No." insert --08/640,412--

At page 2, line 11, after "Serial No." insert -- 08/641,445--

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1-5 as follows:

1. (Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code means therein for providing a single application programming interface, said computer readable program code means in said computer program product comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to [affect communicating] communicate between a member of a process group of related processes and another member of said process group; [and]

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to [affect] accomplish voting on a proposed protocol among the members of said process group for synchronizing said related processes of said process group, said proposed protocol comprising a proposed action to be taken by at least one of the members of the process group; and

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to implement, or refrain from implementing, said proposed action in response to an outcome of said voting.

1 2. (Amended) The computer readable program code means in said computer
2 program product of claim 1, further comprising computer readable program code means for
3 causing a computer to [affect managing] manage membership of at least one of said process
4 group and a processor group of processors.

1 3. (Amended) The computer readable program code means in said computer
2 program product of claim 1, further comprising computer readable program code means for
3 causing a computer to [affect controlling] control a group state value for said process group,
4 in the form of a synchronized blackboard with any changes thereto made available to the
5 members of the process group as changes are made.

1 4. (Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer useable
2 medium having computer readable program code means therein for providing a single
3 application programming interface, said computer readable program code means in said
4 computer program product comprising:

5 computer readable program code means for causing a computer to [affect
6 communicating] communicate between a member of a process group of related
7 processes and another member of said process group;

8 computer readable program code means for causing a computer to [affect]
9 accomplish voting on a proposed protocol among the members of said process group
10 for synchronizing said related processes of said process group, said proposed protocol
11 comprising a proposed action to be taken by at least one of the members of the
12 process group;

13 computer readable program code means for causing a computer to implement,
14 or refrain from implementing, said proposed action in response to an outcome of said
15 voting;

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16 computer readable program code means for causing a computer to [affect
17 managing] manage membership of said process group and a processor group of
18 processors; and

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19 computer readable program code means for causing a computer to [affect
20 controlling] control a group state value for said process group, in the form of a
21 synchronized blackboard with any changes thereto made available to the members of
22 the process group as the changes are made.

1 5. (Amended) The computer readable program code means in said computer
2 program product of claim 4, further comprising computer readable program code means for
3 causing a computer to [affect monitoring] monitor, by a member of said process group having
4 no voting rights, one or more aspects of said process group.

Add the following new claim 6:

1 6. (New) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium
2 having computer readable program code means therein for providing a single application
3 programming interface, said computer readable program code means in said computer
4 program product comprising:

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5 computer readable program code means for causing a computer to
6 communicate between a member of a process group of related processes and another
7 member of said process group;

8 computer readable program code means for causing a computer to accomplish
9 voting on a proposed protocol among the members of said process group for
10 synchronizing said related processes of said process group, said proposed protocol
11 comprising a proposed action to be taken by at least one of the members of the
12 process group, said proposed action including one of a member joining said process
13 group or leaving said process group; and